



SITUATION REPORT #119



INCIDENT NAME: Walla Walla County COVID-19 UNIFIED COMMAND

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|------------------------|--|------------------|
| DATE: October 26, 2020 | TIME: 14:00 Information is updated at 2pm daily | MISSION #20-0265 |
|------------------------|--|------------------|

AFFECTED AREA: Walla Walla, Washington

CURRENT SITUATION: COVID-19 Surveillance, Monitoring & Case Investigation/Contact Tracing

| | |
|--|---------------|
| 2019 Novel Coronavirus Outbreak (COVID-19) Walla Walla County Residents - Regional Healthcare by Providence St. Mary Medical Center | Number |
| Confirmed Cases | 1150 |
| Recovered | 967 |
| Deaths | 6 |
| | |
| 2019 Novel Coronavirus Outbreak (COVID-19) Out-of-County Residents – Regional Healthcare by Providence St. Mary Medical Center | |
| Confirmed Cases | 2 |
| | |
| Tests Submitted – | Number |
| | |
| Total Negative Results (Walla Walla County) | 23,833 |
| | |
| Confirmed Cases by Community of Residence | Number |
| Burbank/Wallula | 85 |
| College Place | 152 |
| Dixie | 6 |
| Prescott | 36 |
| Touchet/Lowden | 24 |
| Waitsburg | 5 |
| Walla Walla | 842 |
| TOTAL | 1150 |



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| Confirmed Cases by Age | Number |
|---------------------------|-------------|
| Under 20 | 146 |
| 20-39 | 438 |
| 40-59 | 380 |
| 60-79 | 145 |
| Over 80 | 41 |
| | |
| Confirmed Cases by Gender | Number |
| Female | 528 |
| Male | 622 |
| TOTAL | 1150 |

REGION 8 PHEPR:

Region 8 PHEPR staff is supporting WWCDCH from their EOC. Next call scheduled for 10/28 3:00-4:00

COMMUNITY MITIGATION MEASURES:

DCH in contact with positive cases, all close contacts on home isolation under daily symptom watch.

- DCH and Providence held the annual free drive-through Adult Flu Vaccine Clinic Oct 24th
- DCH received 1000 doses of annual Flu Vaccine for un- and under-insured residents
- DCH distributed Halloween guidance to community partners
- DCH team completed a DOH survey on priorities and capacity for Flu and Covid Vaccine
- DCH looking into an Ultracold Freezer for vaccine storage
- DCH attending Vaccine planning meetings with DOH
- DCH 'Health Space' training completed for health data management
- DCH and BMAC continue to coordinate community mask distributions
- DCH completed site visits to schools to assist in opening in hybrid learning models
- DCH increased staff capacity for case monitoring and contact tracing to be in compliance with variance applications
- DCH and City of Walla Walla continue temporary shelter planning for isolation of unsheltered cases
- DCH continues work surrounding behavioral health (mental health, substance use) and the coronavirus
- Providence Urgent Care Drive-thru testing operational for those with between 7am-4pm daily
- Walla Walla County Unified Command holding Key Stakeholder calls at 9 am Monday and Thursday
- DCH CD call flu, respiratory illness, COVID-19; next call will be Tuesday, October 27th
- DCH attending M-W-F DOH-Epi to Epi call for LHJ's
- DCH WIC Nutrition benefits continuing to ensure food security for families; completed by telephone consulting and online benefit issuance



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EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:

- The Walla Walla County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) has downgraded to Level 2, Limited Operations, effective 05/28/2020 as of 0800.
- As of 03/24/2020 Walla Walla County Emergency Management continues to work remotely in order to limit exposure that might affect 911 and dispatch personnel who share the facility.
- The Walla Walla County Commissioners signed a Declaration of Emergency, effective 3/13/20 at 2 PM.
- The City of Walla Walla signed a Declaration of Emergency, effective 3/17/20, extended on 4/8/20.
- The City of College Place signed a Declaration of Emergency, effective 3/17/20, extended 6/9/20.
- The City of Waitsburg signed a Declaration of Emergency, effective 3/18/20.
- The Port of Walla Walla signed a Declaration of Emergency, effective 3/19/20, extended 5/28/20.
- The City of Prescott signed a Declaration of Emergency Effective 3/19/20.
- Walla Walla County remains in modified operations/access during regular business to certain county departments.
- Remains in a Unified Command with Walla Walla County Department of Community Health. Unified Command was established 3/13/20 at 2 PM.
- Washington State Emergency Management is now requesting that all Tier 1 priorities be consolidated into a single order. Long Term Care facilities are now considered to be part of the Tier 1 priority, with further changes expected. Tier 2-4 priorities will be consolidated in a 2nd request. Next request period will be for the week beginning 11/2/2020
- PPE tier allocation is changed beginning June 5, 2020, to allow Tier 1 requestors to build on hand supplies to levels sufficient for 14-21 days

1. Outstanding Resource Requests

| WA State Tracking Number | Request Date | Agency | Current Status |
|--------------------------|--------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| WA-2020101314622 | 10/13/20 | City of College Place Schools | In Transit |
| WA-202010269910 | 10/12/20 | Tier 1 Consolidated PPE request | Accepted by Logistics |

Monday, October 26, 2020

2. Effective Strategies and Successes

- Walla Walla County Department of Community Health (DCH) meetings with LTC/ALF/SNF community to stay connected and updated with open dialogue on COVID-19 status in WW Valley.
- Local Health Officer, Prosecuting Attorney and Local Emergency Response Coordinator completing Voluntary and Involuntary Isolation Orders specific to COVID-19.
- Maintain contact with media to keep the public informed.



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- Unified Command calls providing regular communication and collaboration.
- Frequent messaging on Facebook, including Spanish-language posts.
- Providence St Mary Medical Center (PSMMC) Population Health team monitoring PUIs and cases, their awareness of community happenings.
- Blue Mountain Action Council (BMAC) food bank distribution in collaboration with Washington National Guard (WNG).
- Southgate Campus Acute Care wing setup.
- Addressing homeless needs for isolation and quarantine during pandemic.
- DCH Environmental Health team consults for prevention planning for essential businesses.
- Controlled access to WalMart, Home Depot, Albertson's and Safeway.
- Procurement of PPE from Washington State Department of Corrections.
- Continued partnership with WNG.
- DCH virtual meetings with LTC/ALF/SNF community to stay connected and updated with open dialogue on COVID-19 status in WW Valley.
- Proactive work on PSA's and infographics with digital marketing company.
- Solid protocol established between Coroner's Office and PSMMC.
- Tyson compliance with DCH/L&I Essential Business Guidelines and testing of employees.
- Delivery of PPE supplies and test kits from UAC SEOC has enabled us to provide much needed protection to our whole community.
- Experience with annual flu immunization clinics and long history of working together gave us the ability to quickly put together a team for testing at the Tyson Plan. 1,290 Tyson employees tested with staff from PSMMC & DCH.
- Aggressive testing at long-term care facilities.
- Spanish-language PSA's on local Spanish-language radio stations.
- Approval of additional DCH positions and increased hours by the Board of County Commissioners.
- Media specific email and phone number established, the centralized PIO email/phone number is working well and is helping with coordination of interviews.
- Protocols developed by PSMMC to do surgeries for most compelling cases that were delayed.
- Volunteer staffing at DCH.
- DCH/PSMMC/Coroner/Consulate's Office worked together to support a local family with international funeral arrangements.
- PSMMC has done a great job of allocating resources, workers, and supplies for the patients under investigation awaiting results.
- DCH conversations with school districts on distance learning strategies and graduation planning.
- PSMMC tabletop exercise for activation of PSMMC's auxiliary hospital; well attended by community partners.
- Formation of business/economy reopening workgroup. Workgroup team meetings including townhall Q&A with local businesses; webinars to help educate businesses. Continued frequent meetings of the workgroup. Use of Chamber of Commerce website for posting documentation/guidance.
- Tour of PSMMC Alternate Care site, DCH isolation and quarantine sites, and Park Manor by DOH Med Surge Branch.



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- DCYF, Whitman, and DCH debrief on activation of isolation and quarantine for Master's Ranch – West juveniles; successful collaboration.
- Approval of WWEM part-time temp position for logistics by the Board of County Commissioners.
- 1 nurse and 1 disease investigator on staff over the weekend as cases come in over the weekend.
- All of our cases to date are from a known exposure; we're not seeing community spread.
- Arrival of first delivery of masks for low-income population in time for Governor's face mask mandate (36,000 masks). Rapid distribution by Blue Mountain Action Council (BMAC) to nearly 30 agencies and on 6/30/20 at 4 locations in the community.
- With the assistance of DCH, PSMMC received Remdesivir.
- Reopening workgroup recommendation – though no longer required for businesses, a contact log is a good practice.
- Having COVID safety plans in place at businesses benefits successful response to positive employees, as seen recently at a local restaurant.
- City of College Place Hand sanitizer and mask drive-through distribution on 7/7/20 (300 vehicles) 7/9/20 (400 vehicles), and 8/25/20. Handout at their booth at Thursday Farmers Market.
- Meeting on 7/8/20 with DCH/WWEM/USFS/DNR to discuss preplanning for COVID testing, isolation and quarantine.
- Al fresco dining in Downtown Walla Walla and College Place are working well.
- CEPHEID rapid testing machine is now being fully utilized by PSMMC at full capacity.
- Planning for isolation and quarantine of wildland firefighters with use of space at Walla Walla Community College.
- DCH work with large Oregon employer to coordinate cases with Umatilla County; providing education and resources (Health Fair) for employees.
- Hand washing stations at several locations in Downtown Walla Walla.
- [Washington National Guard Title 32 extension through Christmas](#). WNG remain critical to local food bank operations.
- DCH received 36K cloth masks from GCACH (also received 24K KN95s) in August; giving them out at health fairs.
- Highest number of COVID patients at PSMMC since the beginning of the pandemic on 8/11/20, and yet the hospital wasn't overwhelmed.
- Health Fairs: Smith Frozen Foods (August 6), First Fruits (August 12), Tyson Fresh Meats (August 20), Valle Lindo Homes (August 27), Walla Walla River Packing (August 28), & Kiska Farms (September 1), education, masks, hand sanitizer and CDC fliers (Spanish and English) distributed with team from PSMMC & DCH.
- DCH agreement with Whitman College to use North Hall for isolation and quarantine extended until 10/31.
- DCH/Providence/FMC/WWC have aligned their response for population asking for medical note to not wear a mask (exception to required mask wearing); consistent info/guidance that they are not providing notes to patients.
- Community Roundtable discussions for school reopening planning (Cities of Walla Walla, College Place & Waitsburg); looking at effects on workplace, childcare, behavioral health held during the week of August 17 were well attended



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- Department of Commerce Shelter Grant approved for the Sleep Center and purchase of a mobile unit to provide support around the county (2 or 3-year grant).
- 'Testing for Heroes' at PSMMC; employee and first responder antibody testing, initial figures show 60% participation by PSMMC employees.
- City of College Place door-to-door distribution of masks and disinfectant to businesses with the assistance of Chamber of Commerce.
- Slow trend downward in cases.
- Utilization of WNG for filling WEBEOC request for LTC weekly testing to comply with CMS guidelines.
- Work with Providence on future isolation & quarantine options.
- Whitman College success with students following mask wearing guidelines.
- [Veteran's Stand Down](#) on September 26th at VA Hospital.
- Whitman College extending agreement for use of North Hall for isolation and quarantine to the end of November.
- LTC reporting that WNG has provided 'amazing support' for COVID testing to meet CMS requirements.
- DCH has seen positive feedback on Facebook to posting of Halloween guidance.
- Today's report of 3% positivity rate; first time below 5% since July.
- Protocols for following positive antigen tests with PCR testing to confirm at LTC facilities.
- Drive thru flu vaccination clinic at Walla Walla High School on 10/14 for 5 – 18-year old students.
- Walla Walla County sales tax revenue for 2020 is unexpectedly greater than the same time last year. Good news for the budget.
- PSMMC/DCH drive through flu clinic on October 24. All doses were given out. (500 foundation, 35 DCH). Good turnout. Very favorable feedback from observers. Opportunity to examine logistics if location were used for COVID vaccination.

3. Risks and challenges

- COVID-19 Cases
 - Total Confirmed Cases: 1150
 - ❖ Active: 166 (highest case number since beginning of event)
 - Home Isolation: 159
 - Hospitalized: 7 – Walla Walla County residents, 2 – Out of County
 - ❖ Deaths: 6
 - Washington State Penitentiary (included in numbers above): 156 incarcerated (40 active) and 9 staff (2 active)
 - 1 Week Positivity Rate (10/17 – 10/23): 12.5%
 - 10/10-10/23 (222 cases/100k)
 - Outbreak in institutions and across households
- Concern for rapid spread at congregated facilities.
- Cross-jurisdictional coordination with Umatilla County, OR, Benton/Franklin County, WA.
- Need to continue to monitor for behavioral health issues.
- Case investigation slowed by contacts not answering phone calls from DCH.
- Getting vaccination drive-through's set up for winter.
- Halloween guidelines release – will be difficult to get the community to abide by them.
- Challenges as public schools prepare to open safely with hybrid learning models.



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- Cold/flu season; respiratory symptoms may be confused with COVID and require workers to stay home.
- Forecasted change in weather to extremely cold on day of PSMMC drive-through flu immunization clinic on Saturday morning; high of 37°, 90% chance of rain Friday night, chance of snow from 8 – 11 AM Saturday.
- Highly complicated processes for storage and administration of COVID vaccine.
- Red Cross reporting shortage of blood products.
- 'COVID fatigue' is very high with additional challenges presented by winter; more time inside, less daylight and sunshine, etc. Need to focus on community resilience.
- Idaho hospitals at, or near, capacity. We can expect transfer of patients to Walla Walla County.
- Pressure on systems due to increase in case numbers. Increasing risk across communities.
- People moving indoors due to cold; more close contacts.

4. Future operational plans (24, 48, and 72 hours out)

- Emergency Management is activated at **Level 2 – Limited Operations** (virtual, with no face-to-face contact).
- WWEM acting as liaison to Washington National Guard (WNG).
- WWEM continued collection of donations from the community.
- Coordination and communication with Unified Area Command State Emergency Operations Center (UAC SEOC). Unified Command SEOC conference call on Thursdays.
- Monitor WebEOC Resource Tracker for delivery of supplies from Washington State to Walla Walla County.
- WWEM submission of new resource requests on WebEOC.
- WWEM distribution of resources.
- DCH weekend staffing.
- Weekly ESF6 Human Services weekly conference calls.
- PSMMC maintaining daily sit reports.
- EMS providers tracking PPE use with CDC PPE Burn Rate Calculator.
- Continue work with the media.
- DCH case investigation/contact tracing of positive cases.
- Ongoing communications of the State's 'Smart Start' information down to the local level to ensure local businesses understand the requirements for Phase 2 operations.
- Reopening Business Workgroup & Business/Economy:
 - Visitor's Center kiosk on Main Street giving out masks.
 - Masks and educational postcards are being given out at hotels, short-term rentals or visitors; postcards at the Walla Walla Regional Airport for arriving passengers.
 - Salvation Army foodbank operations including information in food boxes
 - Weekly Business Resource Town Hall discussion from 10/22 about family friendly HR policies discussion (to help employees) is available [online](#) for anyone who missed it.
 - City of College Place expecting delivery of PPE to be distributed to residents, order for tables and heaters for outdoor dining. Contracting for software program to develop community development web portal.
 - Port of Walla Walla transferred over 168 applications for CARES Act funding (1.4 million in requests for \$500K) to Walla Walla County.



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- Walla Walla County Dept of Commerce grant applications due this Friday, October 30. Chamber of Commerce have made space in their conference room available and are helping with applications.
- DCH and PSMCMC are continuing to work with Washington State Department of Corrections for cases at Washington State Penitentiary. WNG is providing testing support.
- DCH providing weekly status report to public and private schools to assist them with opening reopening plans.
- Local COVID-19 vaccine planning continues as clinical trials move forward.
- Washington National Guard deployed to assist with testing at LTC facility to meet CMS requirements.
- LTC facilities to continue to test based on CMS requirements to test if positivity rate is over 5%.
- Public School Openings (all hybrid with partial in-person and partial remote learning)
 - Columbia, Waitsburg and Prescott School Districts – week of October 12th
 - Walla Walla Public Schools, PK through Grade 2 – ~~October 26th~~ delayed by school board
 - College Place Public Schools PK- Grade 12 –October 19th
- DCH working with LTC facilities to provide test kits and swabbing for facility wide testing.
- Family Medical Center Flu Clinic November 2nd to 5th
- DCH launching new COVID website (bilingual – English & Spanish). Finalizing Spanish language translation.
- DCH working on ultracold freezer for COVID vaccine storage.
- DOH vaccine 'playbook' presented at this week's Healthcare Coalition meeting; will be presented again on 9/30 with a Q&A.
- PSMCMC is now testing ALL inpatient with their CEPHEID rapid testing equipment, regardless of whether they have COVID symptoms.
- Walla Walla Clinic reports testing has doubled since opening of respiratory clinic. InCyte Diagnostics Lab for presurgical, CEPHEID for clinic. They may transfer a couple of providers to the respiratory clinic to handle the increase.
- PSMCMC in discussions about restricting visitor access because of spike in cases.
- DCH and PSMCMC will be at First Fruits on October 28th to administer 300- 400 doses of flu vaccine.

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COMMUNICATIONS:

- One-Stop for Users: City of Walla Walla's website and Department of Community Health's website now linked together. <https://www.wallawallawa.gov/our-city/covid-19>
- Spanish-language posts to Facebook by DCH; shared on (WWEM) Facebook page.
- U.S. Senator Cantwell has a website with Resources and Information for Washingtonians and Small Businesses Navigating the COVID-19 Crisis: www.cantwell.senate.gov
- **Social Media/PIO/Media Requests:** eocpio@co.walla-walla.wa.us

ANTICIPATED NEEDS: Contact tracing and disease investigation

WHERE TO FIND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Walla Walla County Department of Community Health – Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response
FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY



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Phone Assistance:

- Washington State Department of Health: [800-525-0127](tel:800-525-0127), press #
- Walla Walla County Community Health Information line: [509-524-2647](tel:509-524-2647)

Web Site Information:

- OHA Emerging Respiratory Disease page: www.healthoregon.org/coronavirus
- Washington Department of Health: <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/Coronavirus>
- CDC COVID-19 page: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- CDC travel notice: <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices>
- WHO page: <https://www.who.int/westernpacific/emergencies/novel-coronavirus>

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DISTRIBUTED TO: Walla Walla County BOCC & Clerk of the Board; Providence St. Mary Medical Center Staff, Region 8 PHEPR-RERC, Benton-Franklin Health District, Umatilla Co. LHJ Director, Walla Walla County EMD and EMS & MPD, WA DOH Duty Officer, WA DOH LOFR; Klickitat LERC; Yakima LERC; Benton-Franklin LERC; Columbia Co. Director; REDi HCC, Columbia Co. LHJ, City of Walla Walla, City of College Place, City of Waitsburg, McMorris-Rogers Rep. Port of Walla Walla, and Health Office